

Jesse Duncan Elliott to Andrew Jackson, March 12, 1845, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>JESSE DUNCAN ELLIOTT 1 TO JACKSON.

1 Commodore U. S. N., at this time in command of the Philadelphia navy yard. See p. 391, post.

Washington, March 13, 1845.

Dear Genl. , The splendid sarcophagus I brot with me from the Holy Land is sufficiently capacious to contain the remains of your dear departed Wife and your own, and I do hope you will not decline it, your friends here say you should close at once and with your usual firmness await the awful crices.

Doubtless the Executive will cause the memento to be conveyed to the Hermitage in a manner quite acceptable to your surv[iv]ing friends. My own of Pennsylvania in a body have petitioned Mr. Polk to place my own services in a sufficiently close proximity to him, to avail of what little knowledge I may have in the line of my profession by merging the Beaureau of Dock yards Construction Equipment and Repair in one, with me at its head, thus Philadelphia and Memphis will both be under my own supervision and be the better enabled to press on to completion both. strange as it may appear Norfolk was made a permanent Depot for the Navy directly in the face of a report favorable to another position Eighteen Miles up James River signed by Normand, McRee, Armistead, Swift, Warrington and myself, the former may be attacked by a landing at Lynheaven Bay with one foot on board the fleet the other may be extended to Norfolk when in the March not one gun presents for opposition. a word from you to Col. Polk, would be of importance.

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Your friend Armstrong 2 is confirmed and I will hand him letters for many English Admirals whom I have made the acquaintance of.

2 Robert Armstrong of Tennessee, postmaster at Nashville 1829–1845. Polk appointed him to the consulate at Liverpool.

faithfully your friend

My pocket was picked in the presidents parlour the day of inauguration at a moment, when in conversation with Mr. Polk, it contained your letter to me of Jany 25 and the lock of hair, I may not recover it. send me another and ask Mr. Polk to dress the Navy in the old Continental colours Blue and Buff. I wish it much, so do a large majority of our officers.